



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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State Commission To Examine Academic Preparation for College, Affordability, and Accountability

SACRAMENTO — June 22, 2006 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission will discuss issues ranging from affordability and accountability of higher education systems in the state, to the preparation of high school students for college and work, at its next meeting scheduled for June 27-28, 2006, in Sacramento.

Better preparing students for both higher education and the workforce will be the focus of a presentation by Matt Gandal, Executive Vice President of Achieve, Inc. -- a Washington, D.C.-based education reform organization that has launched the American Diploma Project. Gandal will provide the Commission with data on the gaps in high school preparation and suggest ways that these gaps might be closed. Commission Chair Howard Welinsky noted, "Success in postsecondary education hinges on how well we prepare students in high school. Achieve, Inc. is making important connections between academic and workforce success, and this information can help postsecondary institutions work more effectively with the K-12 community."

The Commission will also receive a new report – *The Road Ahead: Enhancing the Evaluation Process of Academic Preparation Programs*.

(http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0606/Tab_03.pdf). This report examines and comments on the findings of a recent University of California report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of academic preparation programs. It provides recommendations for enhancing the evaluation process for such programs.

Recent recommendations of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Higher Education Accountability will be outlined in another agenda item – *On the Path to Higher Education*

Accountability: Recommendations from the Accountability Advisory Committee.

(http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0606/Tab_09.pdf) “This work is a very high priority for the Commission,” said Murray J. Haberman, the Commission’s Executive Director. “This report moves us ahead toward implementing a framework for measuring higher education performance. This framework will shape much of the Commission’s research agenda.”

The two-day meeting begins with a report and panel discussions on the affordability crisis in higher education (see http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0606/Tab_02.pdf for the report and <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2006-06-14.pdf> for the news release). Among other items, the Commission will also review a report on the gender gap in higher education (http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0606/Tab_07.pdf).

The Commission streams its meetings on the Internet, and its proceedings can be heard live at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov>. Previous meetings are recorded and can also be heard via the Commission’s website.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission’s primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.